

# Press Release



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July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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## **New Charter Supports CASA Month**

NEW Charter has hailed the success of a month-long program of events aimed at highlighting the importance of sheltered housing.

Running throughout July the National Housing Federation's Care and Supported Awareness (CASA) is intended to draw attention to schemes like Gibson Terrace in Hyde where people who have recently been made homeless can go and begin to get their lives back on track, and Birchfield in Ashton which provides supported housing for the elderly.

New Charter houses 604 elderly residents in 21 schemes across Tameside. Each has a dedicated worker who visits every day to check on residents' wellbeing – a service which acts as a lifeline for many elderly tenants, says New Charter's care services team leader Lynne Smith: "It is an invaluable service. A lot of elderly people can become very socially isolated and often don't see anyone at all.

"In supported housing at least they are seeing one person everyday that can encourage them to come and have a cup of tea and meet other people in the lounge.

"But it is also much more than that they can also check on health and get tenants to visit a doctor if they don't look well, which is very reassuring for family members."

Gibson Terrace is one of three supported housing schemes run by New Charter providing 46 temporary homes for individuals facing homelessness.

The housing association is part of the Community Support Foundation (CSF) - a borough-wide consortium made up of organisations like Tameside Women's Refuge, the St Peter's Partnership and crime reduction charity NACRO that are committed to tackling homelessness.

CSF representatives including New Charter's supported housing manager Ian Schofield, were out and about promoting the organisation at an event at Dukinfield town hall recently. Ian said: "Without supported housing schemes like Gibson Terrace we'd be back to the bad old days of people living in bed and breakfasts, staying with friends, or in other unsuitable housing when they face homelessness.

“Supported housing is a vital service for people who are experiencing a dire need. We are one of the few places in Tameside that can provide support to people with complex needs even in emergency situations.”

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WORDS:

#### Notes for editors

- New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £70million a year and a workforce of 880, New Charter is one of the region’s largest registered providers of social housing, and is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, a Government watchdog. The Group owns 18,600 homes. It was named at 6th place in The Sunday Times 100 best companies to work for in 2010.
- For further information about CASA month please visit [www.housing.org.uk/north](http://www.housing.org.uk/north)
- CASA month is being organised by a broad mix of supported housing and floating support services providers, with coordination and other assistance from the National Housing Federation. It is aimed at being a representative and inclusive sector-wide initiative.
- The National Housing Federation represents 1,200 independent, not-for-profit housing associations in England and is the voice of affordable housing. Together, our members provide over two million affordable homes and community services for around five million people. For further information see [www.housing.org.uk](http://www.housing.org.uk)
- iN business for neighbourhoods is a long-term project launched by the National Housing Federation and its members as a major initiative to raise the profile of, and promote, the neighbourhood work of housing associations. For further information see [www.iNbiz.org](http://www.iNbiz.org)

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